

10 May 1963

Honorable Carl Vinson  
Chairman  
Committee on Armed Services  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Vinson:

In reading the printed hearings on Military Posture before the House Committee on Armed Services in January and February of this year, I believe a statement on page 269 is worthy of comment. Mr. Stratton refers to a briefing by General Carter on 12 September 1962. Mr. Stratton points out that General Carter stressed the fact that the weapons that were in Cuba were defensive in nature and states that General Carter "also went on to point out that there was no reason why the Soviets should put in any long-range offensive missiles in Cuba because they had the capacity to fire from the homeland and therefore did not need to go into Cuba." I might add that there was no review by this Agency of these hearings for intelligence content prior to their publication.

I was Acting Director of Central Intelligence in Mr. McCone's absence from the country, and did accompany the Secretary of State for a joint briefing of the House Armed Services Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee on 12 September 1962. I discussed the Soviet arms being shipped to Cuba and spoke from prepared notes. Mr. John S. Warner, the Agency Legislative Counsel, accompanied me and took notes of the discussion. Neither set of notes includes any reference to the substance of the point quoted above, and neither I nor Mr. Warner recall that I spoke to this point.

I thought it desirable to bring this to your attention since Mr. Stratton may have been referring to testimony of others of which we have no record in the Agency.

Faithfully yours,

(Signed) Marshall S. Carter

Marshall S. Carter  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Acting Director

Orig & 1 - Addse (Hand Carry by LC)

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OGC/LC/SW:mks(9 May 63)

Rewritten: G/DDCI/MSD:rh(10 May 63)

Final version concurred in by Mr. Warner, OGC

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Copy of hearings regarding the attached letter are  
in manila envelope in back of file.

Marie 5/10/63